

CLAIMS

1. A wound dressing material comprising a solid bioabsorbable substrate dyed with an antioxidant dyestuff.
- 5 2. A wound dressing material according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a solid bioabsorbable material selected from the group consisting of collagens, oxidized celluloses, chitosans, galactomannans, glycosaminoglycans, polylactide/polyglycolide, and mixtures thereof.
- 10 3. A wound dressing material according to claim 2, wherein the substrate comprises a solid bioabsorbable material selected from the group consisting of collagens, oxidized regenerated celluloses, chitosans, and mixtures thereof.
- 15 4. A wound dressing material according to any preceding claim, wherein the solid bioabsorbable substrate is selected from the group consisting of woven fabrics, knitted fabrics, nonwoven fabrics, freeze-dried sponges, solvent-dried sponges and combinations thereof.
- 20 5. A wound dressing material according to any preceding claim, wherein the antioxidant dyestuff is selected from the group consisting of aniline dyes, acridine dyes, thionine dyes, bis-naphthalene dyes, thiazine dyes, azo dyes, anthraquinones, and mixtures thereof.
- 25 6. A wound dressing material according to any preceding claim, wherein the antioxidant dyestuff is selected from the group consisting of gentian violet, aniline blue, methylene blue, crystal violet, acriflavine, 9-aminoacridine, acridine yellow, acridine orange, proflavin, quinacrine, brilliant green, trypan blue, trypan red, malachite green, azacrine, methyl violet, methyl orange, methyl yellow, ethyl violet,
- 30 acid orange, acid yellow, acid blue, acid red, thioflavin, alphazurine, indigo blue, methylene green, and mixtures thereof.

7. A wound dressing material according to any preceding claim, wherein the antioxidant dyestuff is present in an amount of from about 0.2 to about 2wt.% based on the dry weight of the material.
- 5 8. A wound dressing material according to any preceding claim, wherein the material further comprises a silver salt, whereby the dyestuff photostabilizes the silver salt.
9. A wound dressing material according to claim 8, wherein the polymeric
10 substrate comprises an anionic polymer, and said silver salt comprises a salt of Ag^+ with the anionic polymer.
10. A wound dressing material according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the
15 composition comprises from about 0.01wt.% to about 5wt.% of silver, based on the dry weight of the composition.
11. A wound dressing material according to any preceding claim, wherein the material is in sheet form.
- 20 12. A wound dressing material according to any preceding claim, wherein the material is sterile and packaged in a microorganism-impermeable container.
13. A wound dressing material according to any preceding claim, wherein the material has a free radical activity in the diphenylpicrylhydrazyl (DPPH) test for
25 antioxidant activity as herein defined of at least about 15%.
14. Use of a material according to any one of claims 1 to 13 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a wound.
- 30 15. Use according to claim 14, wherein the wound is a chronic wound, preferably selected from the group consisting of ulcers of venous ulcers, decubitus ulcers, or diabetic ulcers.

16. A method of manufacture of an antioxidant wound dressing material, comprising the step of dyeing a bioabsorbable substrate material with an antioxidant dye.

5 17. A method according to claim 16 for the manufacture of a wound dressing material according to any of claims 1 to 13.

18. A wound dressing comprising an antioxidant wound dressing material according to any of claims 1 to 13.

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19. A wound dressing according to claim 18, wherein the material is sterile and packaged in a microorganism-impermeable container.